NEWSLETTER S P A R K S SUPPLEMENT

SPARKS "JOURNAL" (Vol.1, No.1) Issued by The Society of Wireless Pioneers, Inc. + + + + + + + + + + September 15 1976

GREETINGS FROM "YE OLDE WIRELESS SHACK" . . .

The Ancient Mariner and staff of shellbacks up on the "poop-deck" take this occasion to extend our best wishes and regards to all members ... and a special "Welcome Aboard" to new members who have joined the Society in recent months.

Mailing of the ballot gives us an opportunity of squeezing in a few lines of news about our members and the Society. Since the Postal Service has raised the cost of mailing a one-ounce letter to 13-cents, we think we should take advantage of every fraction of the ounce to add a bit of news even though we realize it will not be much more than you would have copied on a hunk of galena out on the far reaches of the Pacific or Atlantic in the early days, using a 106-D tuner. We doubt if the added weight of one sheet of paper will have any noticable effect on service by the "Slow Turtles"... but perhaps it may. Anyway - please excuse the need to 'thumb-nail' the following news items which we hope are of interest:

ENCLOSED BALLOT

The enclosed ballot lists a slate of officers and directors to take over the pilot house for the next two years. The Nominations Committee" has spent considerable time on their recommendations. We have many talented members among the 2400 (plus) on our roster but unfortunately many do not wish to hold office due to age or health (or other commitments) which is understandable. We think the slate of officers and directors named are all extremely well qualified and will serve you with distinction. All have indicated their willingness to serve if elected.

Should you wish to vote for a member not listed on the ballot, you are invited to do so by writing his or her name in on space provided (marked by asterisk). It will be tallied and will be presented at the business meeting on Oct. 23 1976 which all members are invited to attend. Name of location and details will be furnished if you will send S.A.S.E. so that information may be furnished when arrangements firmed up. Approximate attendance needed in order to make proper arrangements for the meeting.

1976 YEAR BOOK & DIRECTORY

ABOUT READY is the word. This publication will also include an AMATEUR CALL BOOK section plus a 'thumb-nail' sketch of the new members who have joined since the 1973 book was published. This is the largest print job we have ever published and quite an undertaking. We hope that ADDRESSES OF RECORD on our mailing list are nearly 100% correct, both to expedite transmittal of copies to you without delay and secondly to cut down on the increasing expense of handling returned copies due to failure to inform us about changes of address. This is quite a headache. First the Post Office has increased service charge for furnishing a new address if they have it from ten cents to 25¢. Also returned Postage Due which equals original cost of mailing, repackaging, and postage remailing runs over a dollar each. We think this can largely be avoided if members will furnish us Changes of Address is time to correct our Mailing List. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

QSL CARDS

The Society's "QSL" Cards seemed to have made quite a hit. We have received many complimentary letters about them. Our printer is nearly caught up on his backlog and expects to give 'speedy' service on all orders from now on.

MEMBERSHIP

First, glad to report that we have passed the 2400 mark in membership. Mr. George W. Harper of Willets, CA. became SPARK-GAP PIONEER No. 2400 on Aug. 28th 1976. We signed George up at the SOWP "Golden Gate" Chapter picnic -- a real fine gathering of the "clan" in the California Redwoods up on the Russian River.

Talking about Society "get-to-gethers, reunions and such gatherings. SOWP Chapters have held twenty or more in the USA and Canada so far this year. . . and more scheduled. It is hard to record accurately the exact number attending these meetings but it is believed to be in excess of 800 members and their guests.

STATUS ORDERS:

TACKETTS, BANNERETTES, PATCHES, LABELS

All have been filled promptly. We have sufficient on hand to fill orders without delay.

CHRISTMAS QSO PARTY

The Society will conduct a membership on-the-air QSO Party on the weekend of Dec. 18 & 19th. The Party will cover the full 48-hour GMT period and will be the first "voice" party scheduled by S.O.W.P.

The purpose of the affair will be to give members an opportunity to meet one another and to pass along their Season's greetings, etc. There will be no formal exchange requirements and no need to submit logs.

All members with a phone capability are encouraged to participate. The call will be " CQ SOWP". While no certificates or awards will be given, everyone who takes part will be a winner. Here is a chance to renew old friendships, make new ones and continue the comaraderie that has been developed over the years.

Suggested frequencies for the affair are 25 khz +/- khz up from the low end of the general class phone portion of each amateur band.

For those amateur members who want to share the season's joy, why not contact other members in your area who are not amateurs and invite them to visit you and join in the fun. The new CALL BOOK/DIRECTORY will be an excellent source for this project.

Chapter Officers are requested to give this party maximum publicity within their Chapters and of course on nets. Let us all make this a party to be remembered.

Please pass along any suggestions that might help make this another gala affair to Bill Willmot, K4TF (ex K4JPF).

DECEMBER 18 & 19 1976. MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY !

Happiness is . . .

Attending CHAPTER REUNIONS and meeting old shipmates and friends after the lapse of years . . . socializing with them once more in an atmosphere of friendship and good cheer.

(OVER)

Library - California Historical Radio Society

Society of Wireless Pioneers
P. O. Box 530
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

FYI . . .

for your information

STATUS OF PUBLICATIONS

We hope to have SPARKS IV ready by the end of the year and we believe you will find it another interesting issue.

Of particular interest to our members will be the new "SPARKS JOURNAL" which we plan to publish quarterly starting about mid-November. Contents will include news about our members, sprinkled with experiences, episodes, etc. It will take the place of our past Newsletters, except on a regular and scheduled basis. We think you will enjoy it.

CLASSIFICATION "OVERLAYS" FOR CERTIFICATES, CARDS ETC.

Many have requested "OVERLAYS" to bring their Certificates Ident cards, etc.up to date to match their new Classification designations as mentioned on Pages 2 and 3 of our Spring/ Summer 1976 Newsletter Supplement. These are still available to those who want them without cost. Please include S.A.S.E. when requesting. We are not overly happy with the classification "M" (formerly PA for Professional Associate, which many objected to). These members started their Professional careers between 1949 and 1976. You any one has suggestions as a substitute for "M", we would be glad to give it consideration.

CHAPTER "ASSIST"

Most of our Chapters are now putting out a short NEWSLETTER about their members or of interest to them. Some of these NL have been exceedingly interesting and informative. The Chapters need some funds to underwrite these activities, including bulletins about meetings, etc. We would like to encourse all members in a CHAPTER AREA to join and support their chapter both attending meetings when possible and also financially in sending a couple dollars (or more if you can affort) to the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer. Most Chapters have indicated the amount of the small donation which would help them finance their activities. Regretfully, the Society is not able to underwrite Chapter activities and functions which we feel rightfully belongs as Chapter responsibility. Thank you.

COMING EVENTS

This will probably reach you too late to alert you to the "STAR OF INDIA" Chapter (IV) meeting Sept. 11th 1976 at the Jolly Roger Restaurant in Oceanside, Calif. HOWEVER those in the EAST can probably make the ELMO PICKERILL CHAPTER (IX) meeting scheduled for Sat. Sept. 18th 1976 at (PLATE) L'AFFAIRE Restaurant, 1009 Route 22 Eastbound) Mountainside, NJ (5 miles West of GARDEN STATE PKWY). Time: 11:30 - Noon Tab is $6.50. Many choices of entrees. Short business meeting and a program featuring namesake "ELMO PICKERILL" to be narrated by Bruce Kelley... with pix of the "PICK" days. Bruce (AWA) Editor recently underwent surgery so we hope he can make it. If not, you will enjoy a great reunion of "Old-Timers".

THE ERROR OF OMISSION

The name of CARLETON V. BASCOM 806-SGP and listing in the coming DIRECTORY has inadvertantly been left out. This was due to a 'temporary' change of address he gave us (to Philo CA in May with plan to return to home base later). Card was pulled for return but not noticed in pending file. Hence please write in "Collie"s Directory listing on Page 3 (Part I) of the Directory, as follows:
806-SGP BASCOM, CARLETON V. (Collie"/Margaret)
K6VC. 5650 Willis Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411. Phone: 213/ 785-6397.

We deeply regret this inadvertancy. We caught this one. With some 2400 members, there may be more but we hope not.

ANNUAL QSO-PARTY

The SOWP QSO-PARTY held June 5 & 6th 1976 was such a "Bell-Ringer" that those who participated wanted it repeated on a yearly basis. Bill Willmot took care of the 'ground-work' to make this party such a success. Well over a hundred certificates were issued to those who participated.

In view of the success of the 1976 SOWP QSO-PARTY, Bill has already firmed up a "repeat" for 1977 and annually thereafter the Society will host this CW QSO PARTY on the FIRST FULL WEEKEND of the month of JUNE. Next date you can mark ahead on your calendar is June 4 & 5 1977 to run for a full 48-hour GMT period. Details will be announced in advance but for now keep it in mind and jot the date down on your "Coming event" calendar.

WANT TO JOIN A NET ?

Write to Chief Operator ... OSCAR T. HARRISON W5QKU whose QTH is: 422 ARTESIA, SPRING, TEXAS 77373. He will give you all the latest INFO about each of our (approx.) 20 nets and schedules. Be sure to include S.A.S.E.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICIALS

THOMAS A EDISON CHAPTER (FLORIDA - VII)

DIRECTOR: THOMAS H. ELLIS, 200 Country Club Drive, (#603), Largo, Fla. 33540. Phone: 813/581-6093.
SECRETARY: WILLIAM E. "BILL" ALEXANDER 1516-V

JACK BINNS (PACIFIC N.W. CHAPTER V)

In an election held April 24 1976 the following were elected for the 1976-1977 term:

DIRECTOR:	Earl W. Baker, 110-SGP
SEC/TREAS:	Theron C. Van Patton 210-P
CHOP	Ray Runnells 909-P
ASCS:	STAN. BELLEVEAU - 1302-V
Membership:	George Onsum - 474-SGP
Historian:	Dr. Erskine H. Burton - 745-P
Curator:	Warren Green 234-P (W7JY)
Oregon Rep:	John A. Peel 368-P (W7LT)

STAR OF INDIA CHAPTER (IV)

In an election held May 6 1976 the following were elected:

DIRECTOR:	Brandon Wentworth - 393-SGP
SECRETARY:	Marlo G. "AB" Abernathy - 1610-SGP
TREASURER:	Ernest F. Wilmshurst - 126-SGP.

PICKERILL CHAPTER XI ELECTS

DIRECTOR:	Herman A. "Bud" FISCHER 518-SGP (WA2QGY)
SEC/TREAS:	Don Masten Sr. 777-V W2LEL
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:	EARL KORF 613-SGP (K2IC)

NET REMINDER

The Society NETS will resume full operation starting on Thursday, SEPT. 16th. The PACIFIC COAST NET, FRED HUNTLEY (CHOP) will start promptly at 8PM PDT 3555 KC with 20 min. auto keyed press bulletins followed by manual roll-call. JOIN IN THE FUN. If you don't have an XMTR, join in with R-ONLY if you can tune in. Remember a "Perfect Copy Award" can be obtained with a receiver-only installation. All you have to do is send it in to CHAP Huntley (etc) for verification.

BRISTOL BAY CERTIFICATES

The list of "Bristol Bay" Certificate holders is growing. If you are eligible - better get in your request w/o delay so that one of these handsome certificates can be made out while they last.

Let us enter the NEW SEASON with Brotherly love in our hearts for all of our old friends and associates. Good-will and kind thoughts to all of our colleagues and contemporaries. Don't expect the impossible. However, we pledge - "we'll do the best we can". '73'

Bill

William A. "Bill" Breniman